

The Farmington Times.

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"WALKING STILLS" BEING DRIVEN OUT OF COUNTY

The following, under date of Nov. 5th, appeared in Sunday's St. Louis Star, "By a Special Correspondent." While there are some things told of there that we never before heard of, it seems to prove the truthfulness of the old adage, "you must go away from home to get the news." Therefore we are giving Times readers the benefit of the entire story, just as it appeared:

Mopping a county dry is a real task, Sheriff John Hunt and Prosecuting Attorney Coffey will agree, and the two have done more in the last six months than has been done in the past year.

In fact, they have done so much that the county jail has been completely filled at times, with need for extra space. Just 23 persons have rested within that institution at one time, and that is 23 times as many as rested in there about a year ago. In one month 43 passed through, and most of them were "moonshiners".

So active a campaign has been carried on by these two officers in St. Francois county to dry up illicit stills that Coffey has received threatening letters on several occasions. The most recent came from St. Louis on Sept. 20. It was special delivery and had been written with the aid of a carbon sheet. A huge black hand on the back of the second page of the letter added force to the argument that prosecution had better cease.

The letter said:

"Say, if you don't care for your life, your occupation and your profession, but if yer life is much dearer, you had better resign your present position, otherwise you are sentenced to die, instantly, if you don't stop prosecuting today.—One Breaker.

"Mr. Prosecuting Attorney, you had better arrange for your funeral, for you are condemned today. Only chance for your life is to—prosecuting the prohibition law breakers or someone will send you to hell at —" and the carbon ran off the paper and ended.

Letter Given to Officers

The letter is in the hands of federal authorities.

Most of the stills have left the towns, for St. Francois county has no cities of size. The county seat, Farmington, has a population of about 2,600, while Flat River, unincorporated, possibly is the largest town, with a population not far from 6,000, with Bonne Terre, Desloge, Leadwood and Esther much smaller.

In these mining towns, for the lead belt in this county contains some of the largest lead mines in the world, there has been an injection of foreign population who insist that they have a right to drink, and drink they will at any cost. It is against these that Sheriff Hunt has waged war, and now most of them have left the towns and taken to the hills which cover a large portion of the county.

Indeed they have gone into the hills so far that they are near the borders of Jefferson, Washington and Ste. Genevieve counties.

Raid Every Week

Sheriff Hunt has carried on raids every week, and has probably averaged two every week since he came in office last January. In the county jail in a room is a store of moonshine sufficient to delight the eye of any thirsty man and enough machinery for making liquor to start a sizeable distillery.

The sheriff says he puts the prisoners in one room and the still in another. Not very long ago federal officers came into the county and made several raids, but they only carried on and helped part of the regular program. Several hundreds of gallons of liquor have been smashed and treble that amount of mash has been poured out.

In one of the early raids they entered a house and found in a low attic, hardly noticeable, a copper boiler, worm and cooling vat ready for use. There were no signs that it had been recently used. The attic trap door had a strip of wall board nailed over it for concealment.

But the officers saw it, tore it down and entered the attic. The owner of the house was arrested, though he protested his innocence vigorously. Right now he is offering a reward, officers say, for any information that may lead to the arrest, discovery or identification of whoever put a still in the attic of his house and concealed it. His story will be heard before Judge Huck in circuit court.

75 Raids Are Made

There has probably been 75 raids in that county by the sheriff, constables and federal officers, and St.

"WHADDA THEY MEAN, DISARMAMENT?"



Francois county is drying up. The circuit court has 25 cases against liquor law violators and there has been \$2000 collected in fines. Jail sentences are so numerous, for the moonshiners are often poor, that it began to pinch the county. A bill for almost \$500 for prisoners' board one month caused an order to be issued, and now prisoners may enjoy outdoor "exercise" on some of the rock roads in the county.

The "exercise" on the road may have as good an effect as heavy fines, but whatever the effect may be, the county is drying up. What moonshining is now carried on is done carefully. The mash is not left at one place longer than a day and the man who distills, pays a visit by appointment and takes toll. These "walking" stills are hardest of all to catch, but they are the hardest to run—hence they are not plentiful.

The real still, with its barrels of mash, copper boilers, worm and cooling tank, is far out in the hills and near the county line. The trickles from liquor that once ran rather freely, are about dried up. Another six months, and the last drop will be absorbed.

SENATE MAY PASS BILL SPEEDING SALE OF ROAD BONDS

Jefferson City, Mo., Nov. 9.—The Senate late today engrossed the measure amending the law providing for the issue of \$60,000,000 of state highway bonds so that \$10,000,000 of these securities can be sold by the State Fund Commissioners as early as January 1, 1922. The Senate is expected to pass the bill tomorrow.

There is no change of any consequence in the original bill. One of the amendments makes it clear that money now in the state road fund, amounting to more than \$2,387,000, shall be held for completing projects already approved.

Road work under the Morgan-McCullough road law will cease when the first installment of the road bonds is issued with the exception of projects under contract or construction at that time, unless the present special session of the Legislature appropriates funds to carry on such work, according to an opinion expressed by Attorney General Jesse W. Barrett.

Attorney General Barrett held that the money in the state road fund at the present time which has resulted from the state motor license tax law and which is designated to meet the expense of projects now under construction would not immediately become a part of the fund for meeting the \$60,000,000 of bonds under the new law. Such a condition will enable many of the counties that have not received their full quota of \$60,000 from the state for road work under the Morgan-McCullough law to receive the balance or part of this allotment.

Ruling on Request

The opinion of the Attorney General was given in answer to inquiries of the House Roads Committee as to the status of the Morgan-McCullough law when the bonds under the new law are issued.

Attorney General Barrett said the balance, which is due the various counties for road work under the former law, might be appropriated by the present session of the Legislature if such action were authorized by the Governor.

The money now in the state road fund received from the state motor li-

cense tax will not revert to the sinking fund for paying off the road bonds under the new law as soon as the bonds are issued, the Attorney General held, but that such funds may be used to pay for road projects now under contract or construction.

In this regard the Attorney General said the fund received from the tax loses its identity as soon as it is paid into the treasury and the issuance of the road bonds will cause only such fees as are collected after the issuance of the bonds to become a part of the retiring fund for the new bonds.

32 Counties Paid

In regard to the work which has been done under the Morgan-McCullough law, the State Highway Department made a report to the House stating that only thirty-two counties in the state have received their full allotment under the law. Two counties, Douglas and Atchison, have received no funds under the law, although it was pointed out that projects will soon be under way in both of these counties.

The total original appropriation under the Morgan-McCullough law was \$7,200,000, according to the Highway Department statement, each county to receive state aid to the amount of \$1,200 a mile on as much as fifty miles of highway, making a total appropriation of \$60,000 for each county. The amount of money expended under the law to date is \$5,503,720.

DEMOCRATS MAKE GAINS IN FOUR STATES

New York, Nov. 9.—Results of yesterday's "off-year" elections throughout the country indicated tonight substantial gains for the Democrats in four states—Maryland, Kentucky, Virginia and New York—while municipal ballots in many cities resulted in changes of party control. The outstanding case of state-wide Democratic victory was in Kentucky, where that party regained control of the Legislature, which has been Republican for two years.

In Maryland, where the entire lower house was elected, with twenty-seven members of the Senate, Democratic control was increased.

In Virginia the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, State Senator E. Lee Tinkle, led his Republican opponent by a wide margin, which extended also to his running mates, including J. Murray Hooker, the party's candidate for Representative in Congress.

In the New York Assembly the Democrats increased their representation by 23 seats, although the Republicans, with a total of 96 assemblymen, still retained a wide working margin.

Albany, long regarded as the stronghold of Republicanism in this state, will have a Democratic administration for the first time in twenty-two years. The Democrats elected their mayoralty candidate, William S. Hackett, and seized every other berth in the city administration balloted on, including a large majority of the nineteen aldermanic seats.

Detroit re-elected Mayor James Couzens, whose campaign was waged on a platform calling for municipal traction ownership, while Cleveland gave Fred Kohler a substantial plurality over Mayor William S. Fitzgerald (Rep.) and voted to change to a city manager plan of government in 1924.

Republican mayors were elected in Indianapolis and Cincinnati. Mrs. Magdalena Starr, of Hot Springs, Ark., arrived in Farmington Monday noon for a visit with her son, H. O. Tiffany, and family. Mr. Tiffany and family had no intimation of her coming until their door was opened in response to her knocking. It was a most pleasing surprise to them.

More Than 1,400 Hunting Licenses

County Clerk Marvin W. Crowder reports that he has already issued more than 1,400 hunting licenses for this season, of which almost two hundred are State licenses. This is another indication, as strong as you may desire to think it, of the excellent prospects for shooting during the season that opened yesterday. Quail, squirrel and rabbits are known to be plentiful, while many ducks are reported being drawn to large sheets of water in this vicinity, and report has it that there are quite a number of turkeys using the hill country of this and adjacent counties.

The Times believes the large number of hunting licenses issued in St. Francois county this year indicates greater loyalty to the law on the part of our citizens than most other counties in the State. Even in comparison to population, we doubt if that record can be duplicated by any other counties. We have heard of some counties where hunters generally appear to forget that there is any such law. Which indicates that there is still need of great activity on the part of the State Game Warden and his deputies.

Sent to Hospital for Treatment

Herman William Jones, of Flat River, 23 years old, was examined before the County Court Wednesday morning as to his sanity. His mother appeared to be the only witness to testify as to his unbalanced mental condition, which seems at times to be abnormal. It appeared that at times young Jones would lose all control of himself, especially when he became angry. He appeared to be lacking in self-control, and on several occasions has worked himself up to what appeared to be epileptic fits. But when at himself he seems unusually bright and agreeable.

The County Judges decided it was advisable to place him under treatment at State Hospital No. 4, in the hope that he may be able to get a better hold and control of himself. He received this decision in a philosophical way, and stated that he knew he was at times mentally weak, and was willing to do anything that promised an improvement in his condition.

MONDAY CLUB ENTERTAINS

On October 31, the members of the Monday Club, with their husbands and friends, were entertained at the home of Miss Butterfield with a Halloween party. The guests were garbed in traditional "spook" costumes, and refreshments suitable to the season were served. The house was charmingly decorated with autumn leaves and jack o' lanterns.

On Monday, Nov. 7, at the home of Mrs. J. C. Morris, a notable event occurred in the nature of a lecture, before the Monday Club, by Mrs. Xenophon Caveno, of Canolou, New Madrid county. Mr. Caveno, who is a member of the National Farm Bureau, and who is a delightful and forceful speaker, took for his theme, "America Discovered", and discussed the social problems of today with regard to the lately enfranchised American woman. The teachers of the public schools were invited to hear him. The guests also included Mrs. and Miss Caveno.

A social hour followed the session, which included a duet by Mrs. Lang and Mrs. K. C. Weber, and a piano number by Mrs. Forsythe.

Sheriff Jno. G. Hunt made a business trip to St. Louis yesterday.

A Genuine Old Folks "Home"

Last Sunday The Times editor and wife enjoyed the privilege and pleasure of a visit to the new home in the Arcadia Valley now in course of construction for the Baptist Home, which is for the convenience and care of the old people of that denomination who may have become dependent by advancing age. The old home in Ironton has long been over-crowded, and the new venture is largely the result of the untiring and well directed efforts of the superintendent of that institution, Dr. Milford Riggs, whose splendid work in this regard will perhaps stand for ages as a living monument to his foresight and energy in such a humanitarian cause.

The location of the new home is about a mile south of the Arcadia Valley depot, the splendid property being the former Long farm, already splendidly improved, at a cost to the former owner of perhaps \$75,000, which was purchased for its present purpose for \$15,000. There, adjacent to the excellent Long home, on a splendid elevation that appears to have been created for just such a purpose, stands the new home that is now well along toward completion. Down the long grassy slope to the front lies a large lake of limpid water, while a splendid panorama is presented of the beauty of the surrounding country, in whatever direction one may look.

But the large and splendid building being erected there is the crowning glory of that picture. It will be an immense structure, built entirely of red granite and reinforced concrete. It will be four stories, with elevator, sun parlors, assembly rooms, etc., and each bed room will have large double windows. It will be a real home for the old folks who are destined to spend their declining years there, in peace, happiness and contentment. It will be a home that any one should be proud of, and an institution that anyone should be pleased to assist. The construction work is in the competent hands of G. A. Buckley, a competent builder of that locality, who is producing the best possible results at a minimum of cost.

Already the work done appears to represent \$75,000, though Mr. Buckley told us that less than half that amount had actually been expended, and the work is all being paid for as it is done.

Supposed Rabid Dog Bites Child

Mrs. Boyd, recently of Doe Run, who has bought the Dr. Eugas residence, into which she has moved her family, is now distraught with fear for her 4-year-old son, who was bitten on an arm Sunday morning by her dog, which had been a family pet. After having bitten the little one, the dog developed signs of hydrophobia, and until Wednesday morning was kept fastened up in the woodshed. Then the animal became so threatening in its demeanor that Marshall Hough was sent for and the dog was killed.

Immediately after the child had been bitten, Dr. Watkins was called and he treated the wound, but as the dog's symptoms became worse the fear increased in the mother's heart for the welfare of her babe, and it was decided to take the little one to St. Louis for further treatment. Dr. Watkins left for the city with his patient Wednesday afternoon, taking with him the head of the dog for examination. Many friends of the family anxiously await a diagnosis of the case.

Preliminary Hearing Waived

A number of witnesses were summoned for a preliminary hearing of the case of John Griffin last Friday, who is under arrest on suspicion of having assassinated Chris. Steagall near Bonne Terre, on Jan. 5, 1918. Griffin and Steagall's widow, who had been living together in Reynolds county for the past two years, were recently married. Mrs. Steagall is charged with having been an accessory to the crime.

The preliminary hearing was to have come up in Squire Zolman's court, but was waived by the defendant. Griffin and Mrs. Steagall were both given their freedom, on bond to appear for trial at the regular term of circuit court, which convenes next week.

Some Changes a Year Has Brought

A brief space of time often brings marked changes in the economic conditions of a country and its people, especially following a change in administration of the country's affairs. The Times believes, however, that never before in the history of this country has such drastic changes been brought about, in such brief lapses of time, as have occurred during the past year, when this country is at peace with all the world.

We feel it may be beneficial to many of our readers to cite briefly a few of the changes that have thus suddenly taken place, right here in St. Francois county. Only one year ago the Republicans were celebrating the election of President Harding. Then prosperity was more apparently at hand than it perhaps was ever known before. Everyone had money, and all who wanted it also had work. Even decrepit old men, who cannot possibly secure work now, then had regular employment, and at wages the present contemplation of which is calculated to make one's head grow dizzy.

There was too much prosperity to bring contentment. In fact such an unwonted degree of prosperity apparently added to the general discontent. The public mind had become loosed with a superabundance of good times and easy money. Something else was apparently desired, though just what that "something else" really was would have been impossible at that time to define. For one thing there was a general dissatisfaction with everything, as was abundantly attested by the vote for President Harding. Then "something else" was forthwith handed out to them, and the general public did not know, until they really got hold of it, that the "change" was not what they had desired.

In this connection, it might be of interest to compare the wages that were paid in the lead belt in 1920 with those of the present, as well as the cost of some of the articles of food for the same periods. These figures were recently secured and can be depended upon:

| | 1920 | 1921 |
|----------------------|---------|----------|
| Price of Labor | | |
| Mine Shift Foreman | \$5.75 | \$3.70 |
| Machine Men | 4.80 | 3.15 |
| Shovelers | 4.70 | 3.10 |
| Locomotive Engineers | 4.80 | 3.15 |
| Trip Rider | 4.70 | 3.10 |
| Blacksmith | 4.80 | 3.15 |
| Mule Feeder | 4.70 | 3.10 |
| Mill Men | | |
| Shift Foreman | \$5.70 | \$3.65 |
| Jigg Men | 4.55 | 3.05 |
| Table Men | 4.20 | 2.85 |
| Roll Men | 3.85 | 2.70 |
| Flotation Men | 4.55 | 3.05 |
| Chatt Belt | 4.00 | 2.75 |
| Screen Men | 3.55 | 2.50 |
| Sample Boy | 2.55 | 2.00 |
| Common Labor | 3.30 | 2.40 |
| Power House | | |
| Head Engineer | \$5.70 | \$3.65 |
| Oilers | 3.85 | 2.70 |
| Switch Board | 4.55 | 3.05 |
| Head Fireman | 4.55 | 3.05 |
| Asst. Fireman | 3.85 | 2.85 |
| Head Boiler Cleaner | 4.40 | 2.60 |
| Asst. Boiler Cleaner | 3.90 | 2.60 |
| Stoker Tender | 3.30 | 2.40 |
| Cost of Living | | |
| Flour, 100 lbs. | \$6.30 | \$3.70 |
| Smoked Meat, lb. | 0.35 | 0.26 |
| Salt Meat, lb. | 0.25 | 0.17 |
| Lard, lb. | 0.25 | 0.17 |
| Soup Beans, lb. | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| Sugar, lb. | 0.13 | 0.07 |
| Coffee, lb. | 0.26 | 0.20 |
| Butter, lb. | 0.55 | 0.56 |
| Eggs, dozen | 0.57 | 0.40 |
| Potatoes, bushel | 1.44 | 1.90 |
| Corp. bushel | 1.26 | 0.85 |
| Wheat, bushel | 2.07 | 1.10 |
| Hay, ton | 30.00 | 18.00 |
| Oats, bushel | 0.80 | 0.60 |
| Milk Cows, 1920 | \$75.00 | \$100.00 |
| Milk Cows, 1921 | \$25.00 | \$40.00 |

ATTENDED STATE TEACHERS' MEETING

The public school teachers of Farmington attended the State Teachers' Convention in St. Louis last week-end in a body. It was a splendid meeting and much enjoyed. Attendance is compulsory, and the following is a roster of our teachers who were in attendance: Supt. W. L. Johns, Prof. H. D. Haldaman, Mrs. Harlan, Misses Huss, Raines and Herwig; Mesdames Byington and Downing, Misses Halter and Haile; Miss Wilson, Domestic Science, and Miss Antoine, music; Mesdames Lloyd, Gale and Rider and Miss Dobbins, of the North Ward; Mrs. Murrill, Misses Rickus, Myers and Graves, of the South Ward.

Among the candidates from Farmington and vicinity who are this week taking the Scottish Rite Masonic work in St. Louis are Rolla Cozart, J. P. Cayce, O. W. Bleck, Ferd McClintock, Lee Ramsey, Tom E. McKinney and Carson Morris, and G. W. Antoine of Doe Run. They went to the city Tuesday, and the final degree will not be administered until to-morrow night. A class of several hundred is receiving this work, which is apparently increasing rapidly in favor among Masons.